

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the 24th February 1955.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George,* at half-past two of the clock, Deputy Chairman (SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAJ) in the Chair.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

I.—CONDOLENCE RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF SRI A. VAIDYANATHA IYER.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :—“ I regret to have to announce to the House the death of Sri A. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, a former Member of the Madras Legislative Assembly.”

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“ Mr. Deputy Chairman, I move—

‘ That this House places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the demise of Sri A. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, a former Member of the Madras Legislative Assembly from Madurai, and conveys its sympathy to the members of his bereaved family.’

Sir, it was indeed a very shocking news that we saw this morning. I heard only last evening about Sri Vaidyanatha Ayyar's illness and I intended to see him this morning. But I could see this morning only the news that he was no more. Most of us have known Sri Vaidyanatha Ayyar and this shocking news must have depressed every one of us seriously and particularly those who have had opportunities of coming into close contact with him. Sir, I need not describe the feelings which everyone of us has at the passing away of Sri Vaidyanatha Ayyar so suddenly. Sir, I have had opportunities of coming into close contact with him in the last 25 years. I know that sometimes he differed seriously from the attitude of the organisation or the policies of the Government with which I was connected. But I would like to mention that he was uniformly kind to me all through. He may express his opinions very strongly against certain stands and certain policies. But, in spite of his strong expression of views and blunt expression of views, there was no rancour in him. Sir, earnestness, sincerity and a sense of sacrifice were the main features of his personality. He was uniformly devoted to great leaders, Mahathma Gandhi and Sri Rajaji. I know, Sir, that sometimes he was not able to appreciate the stand taken even by these leaders. But still, he dared not differ from them and he had an unflinching loyalty and devotion to these two great leaders.

“ Sir, Sri Vaidyanatha Ayyar unhesitatingly responded to the call of the nation whenever it came. When Mahathma Gandhi, at the initial stage of the non-co-operation movement, asked the lawyers to suspend their practice, Sri Vaidyanatha Ayyar, a very successful lawyer that he was at that time, came forward and

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suspended his practice for six months. Then, when he participated in the satyagraha movement and the civil disobedience movement and went to jail, he had a very lucrative practice and he could easily realise the risk that was involved in his going to jail regarding professional prospects. But still, he did not mind that risk and he carried on happily in spite of the sacrifice that was involved in such life. Even when he was in jail, I can very well remember the motherly interest he was evincing and the motherly service that he was doing to his co-prisoners. I still remember the interest with which he distributed food to the other prisoners day and night. Although he could not have any income when he was in jail, he liberally spent whatever he had earned before. He was not only helping the needy co-prisoners in the same jail in which he was, but was also affectionately enquiring about the conditions of lady political prisoners who were in the neighbouring jails. Sir, in 1931-32, women Congress Workers had to go to jail in large numbers and they were put in women jails. They were suffering on account of so many disabilities. I very well remember how Sri Vaidyanatha Ayyar used to enquire with interest about their condition and needs and how he was lavish in catering to the requirements of the Congress women prisoners in the women jail. Besides catering to the physical needs of the prisoners, I remember how Sri Vaidyanatha Ayyar served them in a number of other ways. With piety, devotion and love for the Tamil language, he started reading the great Tamil literature, 'Tiruvoimozhi' and all the 1,000 hymns during the course of the few months that we were in jail. Under the guidance of Sri Rajaji, Sri Vaidyanatha Ayyar took keen interest and earnestly read and explained the meaning of these fine Tamil verses to those prisoners who were with him. In this way, even when he was in jail, he did not miss serving his co-workers. He was a sincere enthusiast in constructive work. In spite of the leading part that he played and could play in the political movement, he never got into the Congress organisation as such seriously although he was zealously carrying out the constructive programme and did not miss going to jail whenever the nation called upon the people to do so.

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P.m.

" Sir, in 1940, when the *individual satyagraha* movement was started by Mahatma Gandhi, Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar was anxious to participate in it, although he was not a member of the Legislature then and not even a member of the district or provincial or All-India Congress Committees. But it was Mahatma Gandhi who enjoined on him that in the interests of the continuance of constructive work, he should not offer satyagraha and court imprisonment.

" Sir, as hon. Members are aware, Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar was a great lawyer. He was highly respected by the Judges before whom he appeared. He was very popular among the clients who sought his aid. In spite of pre-occupations in public work, people did not hesitate to engage him. I have myself seen that when clients were there in his house waiting to instruct him, each one anxious about his own case, Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar would first

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speak to them elaborately about the various public questions that were attracting the attention of the people at the time. But the clients did not mind this. They knew his patriotism. They knew that in spite of his interest in public affairs, he was a thorough and efficient lawyer. Therefore, clients flocked to him so that one could say that in the Madurai court, he was representing invariably one of the two sides in all cases.

" Then, Sir, he had his concern for the condition of public workers. He never failed to help them materially. He would not of course hesitate to point out their short-comings. He would put it in a blunt way, sometimes, even in an offensive way, but there was no rancour in him. After all this, he would be liberal in his help to those poor workers. Many hon. Members of this House also have known and enjoyed Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar's lavish hospitality. Sir, only recently a circuit house has been constructed in Madurai for visitors from outside the district. But before that was constructed, Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar's house was the travellers' bungalow for many of us, who had to go to Madurai for some work or other.

" Hon. Members are aware that he was a great legislator. He was a Member of the Legislative Assembly from 1946 to 1952. I still remember, whenever he spoke in the House, Members on all sides of the House used to listen to him with rapt attention. He was thorough with the subjects that were before the House. When he spoke on a particular subject, he did it with all earnestness. Even when he criticized the attitude of the Government with regard to any matter, there was no misunderstanding of his stand. In fact, there was appreciation from every side of the House of his stand. He was also very keen in nurturing his constituency and I can personally testify to this fact. Not only did he not mind his professional work and came away from Madurai and remained here during the sessions of the Assembly, but when he went back to Madurai, in addition to his heavy professional work, he would not miss any opportunity of attending to the needs of his constituents and bringing them to the notice of the Government so that relief to the needy people could be arranged in time.

" Sir, of all the items of public service which he rendered and which could be considered as his contribution, the greatest achievement was his service in the cause of Harijan uplift. He played a very great part in improving the condition of these downtrodden people. He was popular among all the Harijans, even among his critics and those who were critical of the Government's programmes. He was uniformly popular among the Harijans. Sir, we claim with pride that this State was foremost in effecting that revolutionary reform in our society, namely, throwing open our great temples to a section of the Hindus, who had as much faith in these temples as others and yet who were not allowed inside these temples. The credit for this achievement goes entirely to Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar. We no doubt passed legislation and the enactment is there. Under the present law, no one can prevent the

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entry of Harijans into any temple. But how did the previous Government come about to pass this legislation? It was Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar who gave a bold and patriotic lead. He got the great temple at Madurai thrown open to Harijans. It was a *fait accompli* and Rajaji, who was the Chief Minister of this State then, came forward to introduce necessary legislation not only to indemnify that act but also to regularize the law with reference to entry of Harijans into temples.

“ Sir, Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar was suffering from this ailment some time ago and underwent treatment. He got better. But he did not hesitate to accept the invitation from Vedaranyam, particularly, when he knew that Rajaji was going over there to participate in a function connected with an institution in Vedaranyam. He unhesitatingly, even disregarding the advice of doctors, ran up to Vedaranyam to participate in the function. He came back only a few days back. I have been told that it was this venture, this rash venture, this patriotic venture on his part without minding his own health, that hastened his death. I can only say that his death is literally an irreparable loss to this State and more particularly to Madurai. It cannot be repaired at all. I can only offer to the members of the bereaved family this solace that we Members of this House and all those outside this House do share this poignant sorrow that is suffered by the members of the family at his death.

“ I commend the resolution for the acceptance of the House.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I associate myself and the Opposition with the Motion that the Leader of the House has moved and the tribute he has paid to the departed soul. Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar was one of the greatest citizens of this country and this House mourns his death.

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p.m.

“ As a patriot, he had few equals and his sacrifices for the cause of the country and for the service of the poor were very great indeed. He had a personality of his own that endeared many a one who came in contact with him. His simplicity and sincerity, his frankness, may I say his bluntness, his conviction and his deep learning attracted everyone to him. As a member of the previous Legislative Assembly and as a member of the Congress Party he was never a ‘rubber stamp’. I have heard him and read the reports of his speeches and I have always found and everybody knew that his criticisms were not based on any animosity to his party or to the Opposition, or to any particular person, but his criticisms were always borne out of his conviction. He spoke according to his conviction, whether it was for the Government or against the Government. He was really a great man. He was a lawyer by profession and a leader. We can find only very few men like Mr. Vythianatha Ayyar in our country. Once again I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Leader of the House.”

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SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY :—“ Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, it was with a deep sense of sorrow that I read this morning the news about the passing away of Mr. Vythianatha Ayyar. I came to know of him when I happened to attend a political conference that was held in Madurai and he was good enough to entertain me in his house with his hospitality, to which reference was made by the Leader of the House. He was not a mere politician but he was a social force generating power in all directions and strengthening the social field of righteousness in our country by his righteous conduct and moral life. Therefore it is that I felt this morning, when I read this news, that the Tamil country had lost a great force in him which will be very difficult to replace. Therefore it is that I associate myself with the sentiments that have been expressed by member after member here in this House so that his family may receive some consolation, though not the fullest consolation which could only be given by God Almighty, in the bereavement they have sustained in the passing away of the head of their family and the void created in the field of social righteousness and reform in Madurai and throughout the Tamil country. Therefore it is that I want to associate myself heartily with all the sentiments that have been expressed. I hope the speeches we are making here may be transmitted to the members of his family so that they may have an idea of the appreciation and esteem in which his memory is still cherished in the minds of the Tamil people, so that it may be an inspiration to them in this hour when everyone in his family would individually be full of emotions. Our words of appreciation may be of some solace to them. He was one of the great sons of Tamilnad. He was no doubt inspired by Rajaji with social service. But, I do not think personal ambition played any role at all in his life. ‘A noble mind bereft of personal ambition’ as Milton’s object was, could truly be said of Mr. Vythianatha Ayyar. Therefore it is I felt always attracted to his dignified personality. It was a ‘social dynamo’ emanating its laurels in all directions for the amelioration of the social and other economic conditions of our people. I also remember him asking question relating to the amelioration of the working class. He was in full sympathy with the working class although he felt at times that some of us had gone too far in our denunciation of capitalism. All the same I felt the importance of his dignified personality in various fields of activity in the Tamil country. As I have said, he was a politician only in name in the purely political field. But he was more than a politician, a deep social force, a social dynamo and inspired confidence in the minds of all people with whom he came into contact. I am not acquainted with him in his work as a lawyer because I did not move with him in the capacity of a lawyer. As a social reformer, as one who worked ceaselessly for the welfare of the Harijans and the amelioration of the conditions of the depressed classes, we have only a few equals to Mr. Vythianatha Ayyar. His was a great soul. I once again associate myself with the fine sentiments expressed by the Leader of the House and hope that our words of appreciation will in some way be of

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some consolation to the members of his family in the bereavement that has fallen upon them. Our words of appreciation would be something valuable to them and I hope that this resolution of ours would not be a mere resolution but one which would bring great consolation and satisfaction to the members of the bereaved family. With these words I once again express my deep appreciation of his great and dignified personality in various fields of social activity which personality worked ceaselessly for the betterment of the depressed classes."

* SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, when grief is poignant and personal it is difficult to join in paying tributes in a more or less formal manner as should be done on this occasion. As I have often observed the only language in which we could express grief is the language of the child and not in words. It gave me great consolation to hear the Leader of the House speak on many of the qualities and things with which we associate Sri Vythianatha Iyer's memory. It is difficult to remember when emotions have been disturbed.

3 p.m. " Everyone knows that it was an uncommon soul that inhabited Sri Vaidyanatha Ayyar's body. Rarely have we seen men of his type, and it is great shock to us when premature death takes such people away from us. Sri Vaidyanatha Ayyar shares with only one that I remember the glory of building Tamilnad as it is to-day. If in the Gandhian era, Tamilnad has played its part honourably and well, it is due to two men, namely, Dr. Rajan who passed away some time ago and Sri Vaidyanatha Ayyar who passed away yesterday. Whether it be the cause of independence, whether it be the cause of social reconstruction, or whether it be the maintenance of that character which is necessary to maintain a free national life, in all these steps I can say without exaggeration that Sri Vaidyanatha Ayyar was one of the primary builders of our State. We had in Sri Vaidyanatha Ayyar one who hated untruth, one who hated any form of fraud or malpractice. He hated injustice and he hated to see suffering. In fact his sensitive soul was his great feature. He could not contain himself if anything went wrong morally round about him. Sometimes this became a difficult thing for his friends who had to manage political and national life with much accommodation. Sri Vaidyanatha Ayyar could not understand these compromises which are forced upon the leaders of public life. That is why I sometimes advised him not to torture himself by being in political life. I have often told him ' You are not the man for politics because it causes pain to you, and you should avoid it '. But it is such men who purify and ennoble politics, and he did it during all these great years in our national history. I need not go further than mentioning these things in a general way. Last evening I was with him till half past five. It was a pleasure to see the brightness in his face, and I thought that there was no crisis yet although he was breathing with great difficulty on account of the very enlarged spleen and liver which he had to carry. I felt and

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told the doctor that his vitality was strong and that he could be saved. But it could not be done, and he has left us prematurely. He did not wish to die. He wished to work. It is a great loss as was observed—an irreparable loss as everybody knows. Beyond those who were publicly associated with him in national work, thousands have received assistance from him who would all to-day mourn. The greatest quality in him was his intense pain at seeing anything wrong and his intense benevolence. He could not suffer seeing people in difficulties. He helped people until one may say he found there was no end to that kind of work. We have lost a very uncommon soul. Reference was made to his share in the temple entry movement. It is not an exaggeration if I say on the floor of this House that it was due to his intense and earnest thought on the subject and his personality that the temples in South India stand open to Harijans now. But for him I do not know whether we would have taken this revolutionary and courageous step at all. We might have expressed sympathy. We might have done a lot of social work. We might have done a hundred other things. But I do not know if we would have interfered with the normal course of religious practice but for his courageous initiative. It was not a small village temple, but it was the great temple of Madurai which, urged by his conscience, he trespassed into with Harijans before the law was made which could justify that step. He did it in a most pious, orderly, and devoted manner. It was a step which can be ranked with some four or five events in the world where men disobeyed the law for the sake of conscience. I remember very well in this House how such a keen reformer like the Rt. Hon'ble V. S. Srinivasa Sastriar opposed the Indemnity Bill which I moved, and which was necessary to be moved to save legal action against Sri Vaidyanatha Ayyar as a result of what I called trespass for the sake of conscience. That is why I say but for his initiative I am not sure how our progress in this matter would have fared. If to-day Madras has a good record in respect of the removal of untouchability to show against the rest of India, it is entirely due to Sri Vaidyanatha Ayyar's courage and his conscience. It is not given to many to play the part he played in all the aspects of the Gandhian revolution in India. It fills me not only with grief, Mr. Deputy Chairman, but with shame that I am standing here to join in the offering of tributes to one who was younger and who has passed away before his time".

* THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“ Sir, Sri Vaidyanatha Ayyar was one of the sincere men who worked for the elevation of Harijans and depressed classes. It is very rarely that we come across such persons who work with not only sincerity but also with earnestness to see that those who are downtrodden are uplifted. Sir, in his death the community has lost one of the doughty champions. The work he did as Rajaji has now narrated

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can only be measured when we compare the position of the community now with the position it occupied some years ago, say, 15 or 20 years ago. That was a time when nobody dared to come forward to take up the cause of the Harijans. We find today there are a number of persons vying with one another to speak on behalf of the Harijans. Those were days as I said, when people who came forward to speak for or champion the cause of Harijans were considered as enemies of the country. In those days when untouchability was very acute, Sri Vaidyanatha Ayyar came forward to speak for the Harijans and worked on their behalf. Particularly, I should like to mention the great effort that he took to secure the entry of Harijans into temples. I am sure it will be written in letters of gold in the history of our country and will be treasured in the affectionate recollections of generations yet unborn. He has done yeoman service and was doing it till his last day. He served the poor people irrespective of their caste or community. Even a few days ago, I received letters from him. At times, at 12 o'clock in the dead of night he used to speak to me over the phone about certain matters concerning the Harijans. He was ever alive to their problems and as I said, in his death, the Harijan community has lost a doubtful champion. I associate myself with the feelings expressed on the floor of the House and pray that his soul may rest in peace."

*SRIMATHI R. S. SUBBALAKSHMI :—“கனம் உப தலைவர் அவர்களே, இந்தியாவின் உத்தமமான தலைவர் ஒருவர், இந்திய மாதாவின் உத்தமப் புதல்வர் ஒருவர், ‘நின்றான், இருந்தான், கிடந்தான், தன் கேள் அலறச் சென்றான்’ என்பநிலைக்குப்போய், நம்மை விட்டுப் பிரிந்தது நமது துரப்பாக்கியந்தான். இன்றைக்குப்போயை நாளைக்கிருப்பார் என்று எண்ணவோ திடமில்லையே என்பதற்கொப்ப, நேற்றுவரை நம்முடன் கூட யிருந்த மீ வைத்தியநாதய்யர் அவர்களை திடீரென்று எதிர்பாராத விதமாக நாம் இழக்கும்படியான விட்டது நாமெல்லோருக்கும் மிகுந்த வருத்தத்தை அளிக்கிறது. ஏழு அல்லது எட்டு வருஷங்களுக்கு முன்புதான் அகில இந்திய மாதர் சங்க மகாநாட்டிற்காக எங்களில் சிலர் மதுரைக்குச் சென்றிருந்த பொழுது அவரைச் சந்திக்கும்படியான பாக்கியம் ஏழை எனக்குக் கிட்டியது. அவர் உயர்ந்த நோக்கங்கள் கொண்டவர் ; எளிய வாழ்க்கை நடத்துபவர் ; நிதர்சனமான லட்சிய புருஷர் என்பதில் சந்தேகமில்லை. ‘சென்றகரிய செய்வார் பெரியர்’ என்பதற்கொப்பாக விளங்கினார். பேச்சளவில் எதையும் செய்கின்றதாகச் சொல்லுபவர்கள் பலர் ; ஆனால் அனுபவத்தில் செய்து காட்டுபவர்கள் வெகு சிலரே. அப்பேர்ப்பட்ட பெரியார் மீ வைத்தியநாதய்யர் என்று சொல்லலாம்.

“சென்ற பத்து நாட்களுக்கு முன்புதான் வேதாரண்யத்திலுள்ள குரு குலத்தில் அன்னபூர்ணையத் திறப்புவிழாவிற்கு தலைமை வகித்தார். இரண்டு மாதங்களுக்கு முன்பு சென்னையில் அவர் தங்கியிருந்த நர்ஸிங் ஹோஸ்பித் தன்னை வந்து பார்ப்பதற்கு அனுமதித்தார். ஒரு மணி நேரம் பல விஷயங்களைப்பற்றி பேசினார். நான் அங்கே சென்றபொழுது அவர் பேசிய ஒவ்வொரு விஷயமும் அர்த்தபூர்வமானிருந்தது. பெண்களின் முன்னேற்றத்துக்காக அரும் பாடுபட்டு, அநேக நிர்மாணத் திட்டங்களை வகுத்து அவற்றை அனுபவத்திலும் நடத்திக் காட்டியவர். தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களின் முன்னேற்றத்துக்காக வெகுவாகப் பாடுபட்டிருக்கிறார். ஆஷயப் பிரவேச இயக்கத்தை முதல் முதலாக மதுரையில் துவக்கி வைத்து, ஆதித் திராவிடர்களை கோயில்களில் அனுமதிப்பதில் முன்னணியில் நின்றார். அவருடைய மனைவி, குழந்தைகள் எல்லோரையும் பார்க்கும்பொழுது எவ்வளவு ஒரு உத்தமமான லட்சிய வாழ்க்கை நடத்தி வரும் தம்பதிகள் என்று நிரம்பவும்

24th February 1955] [Srimathi R. S. Subbalakshmi]

சந்தோஷமாகயிருந்தது. அப்படிப்பட்ட மஹா புருஷரை நாம் இழக்கும்படியான துர்பாக்கியம் நேரிட்டது குறித்து நாமெல்லோரும் மிகவும் வருத்தப்படுகிறோம். எல்லோருடைய சார்பாகவும் நம்முடைய அனுதாபத்தை அவருடைய தர்ம பத்தினி அவர்களுக்கும், அவருடைய புதல்வர், புதல்வி களுக்கும் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்வோமாக.”

* SRI V. BHASHYAM AYYANGAR :—“ Mr. Deputy Chairman, I wish to join in the tributes of love and respect that have been paid to the late Mr. Vaidyanatha Iyer. Perhaps, in this House I have known him for the longest period, because I have known him for the last 40 years. He practically started his practice of law before me when I was the District Munsif at Tirumangalam in Madurai district. He was then a young man of about 25 years. Though he resided in Madurai, as Tirumangalam was very near Madurai, he used to appear in several cases before me at Tirumangalam. I have great respect for his ability as a lawyer. As a rising, young, capable and able lawyer, he used to devote the greatest attention to the work which was entrusted to him. Our friendship which began at that time continued till the date of his death. It was a great shock to me to read the news in the papers this morning about his death. He was not only a great lawyer, but also a great worker in the cause of the poor and the depressed. As has been expressed by the speakers who have spoken earlier, the work that he did for the abolition of untouchability was supreme and was unique and unequalled so far as Madras was concerned. He was also a great patriot who worked for the good of the country. I remember that in 1929-30, when he was sent to Vellore jail in connection with some political case, I was the District and Sessions Judge at that place. Then I had the honour of calling on him in the jail. I have a vivid recollection of how he was at that time in the jail. When I went to the jail he was reclining on an easy chair with *vibhuthi* on his forehead and was having a pleasant conversation with the co-prisoners.

“ He has done very valuable service in the cause of not only the country, but for the benefit of the depressed classes. He was a very straightforward and honest man as pointed out by Rajaji. His lavish hospitality was very well known. His house in Madurai was a ‘ chatram ’ so to say. Anybody and every body that went to Madurai could go to his house and have food there without regard to caste, creed, or religion. He was a very lovable man and it was a privilege to be associated with him. After the comprehensive speech made by the Hon. the Leader of the House and our revered Rajaji, many words of mine are not necessary on the motion that has been moved by the Hon. Leader of the House. I consider it a privilege to join in the tributes which have been paid to him. I hope the motion and the sentiments of sympathy expressed here will be conveyed to the members of his family.”

* SRI N. ANNAMALAI PILLAI :—“ கனம் உப தலைவர்களே, சென்ற 3-20 முப்பது வருடங்களாக நமது நாட்டின் விடுதலைக்குப் போராடிய ஒரு வீரனை P.m.

[Sri N. Annamalai Pillai] [24th February 1955]

நம் தேசம் இழந்துவிட்டது. மகாத்மா காந்தி அடிகளால் கொண்டு வரப் பட்ட நிர்மாணத் திட்டங்கள் அனைத்தையும் நிறைவேற்றுவதில், தென்னிந்தியாவில் முன்னணியில் நின்று அவைகள் வெற்றி பெறுவதற்காக கிரியாமசையில் தானும் தன் கடமையைச் செய்து, பிறரையும் செய்யும்படித் தூண்டிய பெருமை நமது தலைவர் ஸ்ரீமான் வைத்தியநாதய்யர் அவர்களுக்கே உரித்தாகும். அதுமட்டுமல்ல, இந்த தேசத்திலுள்ள எல்லா வாலிபர்களையும் தட்டி எழுப்பி, இந்த தேசத்தின் போராட்டத்தை உருவகப் படுத்தி வைத்தார்.

“1922-ம் ஆண்டிலே ஆயிரக் கணக்கான மக்களை தேசியப் பணியில் ஈடுபடச் செய்து, சுமார் 200 பேர்களுக்கு மேல் கள்ளக் கடை மறியலில் பங்கு எடுத்துக்கொள்ளும்படி செய்து, அவர்களை ஜெயிலுக்கு அனுப்பி வைத்தார், மேலும் ஸைமன் கமிஷன் பகிஷ்காரத்தின் போது அவர் செய்த வீராவேசமான காரியம் பாராட்டுதற்குரியது. ஸ்ரீ வைத்தியநாதய்யரும், காலம் சென்ற ஜோஸப் அவர்களும் தமிழ் நாட்டில் ஸைமன் கமிஷன் பகிஷ்காரத்திற்கு போதிய ஆதரவளித்தார்கள். காலம் சென்ற ஸ்ரீ ஸ்ரீனிவாஸ் அய்யங்கார். ஸ்ரீ சத்தியமூர்த்தி போன்றவர்கள் ஸைமன் கமிஷன் பகிஷ்காரத்தில் முக்கிய பங்கு எடுத்துக்கொண்டதினாலே அந்த பகிஷ்காரம் வெற்றிகரமாக நடந்ததோடு மட்டுமல்லாமல், இந்த தேசம் பூரண சுதந்திரம் அடைவதற்கு அடிக்கோலியாகவும் நுந்தது. நமது தலைவர் ராஜாஜி அவர்கள் தலைமைப் பதவி ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு அரசியல் போராட்டம் நடத்திய ஒவ்வொரு சமயங்களிலும் ஸ்ரீமான் வைத்தியநாதய்யர் அவர்களும், டாக்டர் ராஜன் அவர்களும் முன்னணியில் நின்று பெரும் தொண்டு செய்து வந்தார்கள். அப்படிச் செய்து வந்ததால்தான் நமது தேசம் சுதந்திரம் அடைய முடிந்தது. நமது தேசத்தில் முக்கியமான தலைவர்களை எண்ணிப் பார்த்தால் இருபது பேர்களுக்கு மேல் இராது. அந்த இருபது பேர்களில் ஸ்ரீ வைத்தியநாதய்யர் ஒருவர்.”

“தீண்டாமையை ஒழிப்பதற்கு மதுரைக் கோவிலை ஹரிஜனங்களுக்குத் திறந்து விடுகிற பொழுது தமிழ் நாடே அதிர்ச்சி அடையும் நிலையிலிருந்தது. எவ்வளவு கொலைகள் நேருமோ, எவ்வளவு தூரம் ரத்த ஆறு ஓடப் போகிறதோ என்று எல்லோரும் நடுங்கிக்கொண்டிருந்த காலம் அது. அப்பொழுதான் மதுரையம்பதியில் ஸ்ரீ வைத்தியநாதய்யர் ஹரிஜனங்களின் ஆலயப் பிரவேசத்தை நடத்தி வைத்து, தமிழ் நாட்டிற்கு மட்டுமல்லாமல் இந்தியாவுக்கே ஒரு வழி காட்டியாக விளங்கினார். இப்படிப்பட்ட பெரியாரை நாம் இழக்க நேரிடது நமது துரப்பாக்கியமே.

“சென்ற பத்து தினைகளுக்கு முன்புதான் அவர் வேதாரணயத்திற்குச் சென்று வந்தார். வேதாரணயத்தின் மகிமையைப்பற்றிச் சொல்வதற்கு இப்போது நேரமில்லை. 1930-ம் வருடத்தில் அங்கே உப்பு சத்தியாக்கிரகம் நடந்த பொழுது தொண்டர்களை ஆதரித்து, ஆட்களை அனுப்பி வைத்து, ஆங்கில ஆட்சியை ஸ்தம்பிக்கச் செய்வதற்காக அவர் செய்த சேவை பாராட்டுதற்குரியது. நமது தலைவர் ராஜாஜி அவர்கள் திருச்சியிலிருந்து வேதாரணயத்திற்குக் கால் நடையாகச் சென்ற பொழுது, என் போன்றவர்கள் அவர்களுடன் முன்னணியில் செல்லுகின்ற காலத்தில் எங்களுக்கு வேண்டிய பாதுகாப்பெல்லாம் கொடுத்து, சத்தியாக்கிரகத்தை திறம்பட நடத்துவதற்கான ஆதரவு அளித்து வந்தார். சரித்திரப் புகழ் பெற்ற இந்த உப்பு சத்தியாக்கிரகம் வெற்றி கண்ட இடத்தை கடைசியாகப் போய் பார்த்துவிட்டு இன்றைய தினம் நம்மை விட்டுப் பிரிந்துவிட்டார். இந்தப் புனிதமான இடத்தைப் பார்த்த பிறகு, தான் போராடி வெற்றி கண்ட பழைய நினைவுச் சின்னங்களால் ஏற்பட்ட உணர்ச்சிதான் அவரைக் கொன்றுவிட்டதோ என்று நான் நினைக்கிறேன். காங்கிரஸ்காரர்களுக்கு மட்டுமல்லாமல், வெள்ளை ஆட்சியை ஒழித்துக் கட்டுவேன் என்று சொல்லிய இதரக் கட்சிக்காரர்களுக்கும் கூட, நல்ல சமயங்களில் அவர் ஆதரவளித்துள்ளார். இதை நான் இப்போது எடுத்துச் சொல்லக் கடமைப்பட்டுள்ளேன். உப்பு சத்தியாக்கிரகமென்ன, வாள் சத்தியாக்கிரகமென்ன, நீல சிலை சத்தியாக்கிரகமென்ன. இந்தப் போராட்டங்களிலெல்லாம் நானும் பங்கு எடுத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கி

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நேன். ஒவ்வொரு போராட்டத்திலும் ஸ்ரீமான் வைத்தியநாதய்யரும், டாக்டர் ராஜனும் திடீரென்று வந்து அந்தந்த சமயங்களில் வேண்டிய ஆதரவு கொடுத்து, தமிழகத்துக்கு அரும் பெரும் பணி ஆற்றி வந்துள்ளனர். மதுரையம்பதி ஒரு புகழ் பெற்ற பிரதேசம். அப் புகழ் பெற்ற பிரதேசத்துக்கு பெருமை தந்தவர் ஸ்ரீ வைத்தியநாதய்யர். ராஜாஜி அவர்கள் எடுத்துக்கொண்ட ஒவ்வொரு காரியத்திலும் பங்கு எடுத்துக்கொண்டு அவருக்கு உதவி புரிந்துள்ளார். 1921-ம் வருடத்திலே சட்ட சபைத் தேர்தலின் போது அவர் காட்டிய உத்வேகமும், உற்சாகமும் வர்ணிக்க முடியாது. தேசத்திற்கே ஒரு வழி காட்டியாகயிருந்து அரும் பணி செய்த உயர்ந்த தலைவர். தேசத்தின் விடுதலைக்காக பாடுபட்ட ஒரு முக்கியமான பிரதான புருஷராக விளங்கியவரை நாம் இழந்து விட்டோம்.

“கம்ப்யூனிஸ்ட் கட்சியைச் சேர்ந்தவர்களுக்குக்கூட சில காலத்துக்கு முன்பு தேசத்தின் விடுதலையான் பிரதானம் என்று கம்ப்யூனிஸ்டுகள் கருதி வந்த காலத்தில் ஸ்ரீ அய்யர் அவர்கள் கொடுத்த ஆதரவு இவ்வளவு என்று சொல்ல முடியாது. இன்றைக்கு கம்ப்யூனிஸ்டு கட்சியை நம்முடைய விரோதி என்று நினைக்கிறோம். அந் நிலைமைக்கு அவர்கள் போய்விட்டார்கள். சோஷலிஸ்ட் கட்சியினருக்கும், மற்றும் இதர கட்சியினருக்கும் எவ்வளவோ ஆதரவு காட்டி வந்திருக்கிறார்.

“அவருடைய மனைவி, குழந்தைகளும் அன்னரின் குடும்பத்தாரும், மற்றும் பல லட்சக் கணக்கான பொது மக்களும் இன்று அவருடைய பிரிவினல் தவித்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அவருடைய குடும்பத்தாருக்கு எனது மனமாற்ற அனுதாபத்தைத் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்கிறேன். அவருடைய ஆன்மா சாந்தியடைய எல்லாம் வல்ல இறைவனைப் பிரார்த்திக்கிறேன்.”

SRI A. CHIDAMBARAM :—“கனம் உப தலைவர்வர்களே, ஸ்ரீ வைத்தியநாதய்யர் அவர்கள் காலம் சென்றதை இன்று காலை பத்திரிகை வாயிலாக அறிந்து துக்கப்பட்டவர்களில் நானும் ஒருவன். சென்ற முப்பது ஆண்டுகளாக அரசியல் துறையிலும், பொது வாழ்விலும் தீவிரப் பங்கு எடுத்துக்கொண்டவர் அவர். அவருடன் கூட ஊழியம் செய்யும் வாய்ப்பு எனக்குக் கிடைத்தது. எந்தப் பொது விஷயத்திலும் முன்னணியில் நின்று ஒரு வழி காட்டியாக விளங்கி, நல்ல ரீதியிலே மக்களுக்குப் பணி ஆற்றி வந்த தலைவர் ஸ்ரீ வைத்தியநாதய்யர். மதுரை அரசியல் துறையிலும், இதர பொது வாழ்விலும் வழி காட்டியாகயிருந்த ஒரு தலைவர் மறைந்து விட்டதால் ராஜ்ய நஷ்டத்துக்கு மேலாக, பெரிய நஷ்டத்தை மதுரை மக்கள் அடைந்துவிட்டார்கள் என்பதில் ஐயமில்லை. பொதுவாக தொழிலாளர்கள், ஏழைக் குடியானவர்கள், தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட மக்கள் இவர்களிடையே ஏற்படும் சச்சரவைத் தீர்த்து வைப்பதில் பெரும் பங்கு எடுத்துக்கொண்டு, தன் அலுவல்களைக்கூட விட்டு விட்டுக் கிராமம் தோறும் சென்று ஏழை மக்களிடையே சமாதானம் நிலை அரும் பாடு பட்டிருக்கிறார்.

“அவர் ஒரு சிறந்த வக்கீல். அவருடைய சம்பாத்தியம் பெரிய அளவிலேயே இருந்தது. அவர் வருவாயில் ஒரு சிறிய அளவையே தன் சொந்த அனுபவத்திற்கு வைத்துக்கொண்டு பாக்கிப் பணத்தை பொது மக்களும், ஏழைகளும் பயனடையும்படி பகிர்ந்து கொடுத்தார். அப்பேர்ப்பட்ட பெரியாரின் மறைவானது இன்று நாட்டில் மலிந்து வரும் ஏழைகளுக்கும், தொழிலாளர்களுக்கும், மற்றும் தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட மக்களுக்கும் பெருந்த நஷ்டத்தை உண்டாக்கியிருக்கிறது. அன்னரின் குடும்பமே அரசியல் துறையிலும் பெரும் பங்கு எடுத்துக்கொண்டதால் மதுரைக்கு நல்ல பெயரும், புகழும் ஏற்பட்டது. அப்பேர்ப்பட்ட பெரியாரை இழந்துவிட்டதினால் அவருடைய குடும்பத்தினரும் நாமும் துக்கக் கடலில் ஆழ்ந்திருக்கிறோம். அவருடைய குடும்பத்தாருக்கு இந்தச் சட்ட சபையில் நமது அனுதாபத்தை தெரிவிப்பதன் மூலம், அவர்களுடைய துக்கத்தில் நாமும் சிறந்த பங்கு எடுத்துக்கொள்வதாகயிருக்கும்.”

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—“Sir, I just want to add a word or two to what has been said by several Members. Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar was a colleague of mine in the last

[Sri Mohamed Raza Khan] [24th February 1955]

Assembly and I do remember on this occasion the great part he played as a parliamentarian and as one who said what he had to say, without fear or favour, against the Government, when they went wrong. I make no exaggeration when I say this. He was sitting in this very hall, in some obscure corner, and making his contribution from time to time to the discussion of the various problems that came up before the House during the years 1946-1952.

3-30
P.m.

“It was not possible for him to attend the Assembly session on all days. But whenever any important problem, whenever there was any important Bill or measure, Mr. Vaidyanatha Iyer will make it a point to attend the Assembly meeting and he was always there on those days. It was of the least consequence to him as to how his speech would be felt by the members of the Treasury Benches; it was of the least consequence to him whether he was against the current or along with the current; it was of the least consequence to him whether he was for or against the party in power; but whenever he felt he had a point of view and that point of view was what his conscience told him, he stuck to it and he will have his say and leave it at that. In fact I could say that many a young man who was in the last Assembly if he could say now that he had learnt something of parliamentary procedure, I could say it was due to Mr. Vaidyanatha Iyer. He would encourage young men and put them in the right way and make them do the right thing. I would like to say on this occasion, because references have been made to his intellect, that he was one of those who believed deeply in his conviction and it will not be sufficient if I do not mention about his noble heart. There were many instances in his life which could be a source of lesson for others to practise. May I say on this occasion, apart from his service in the cause of Harijan uplift (to which references have been made) that he did his best to make the Hindus and Muslims live happily. Unfortunate time it was when there was communal tension in Madura at one time. There was bitterness between Hindus and Muslims and in this also Mr. Vaidyanatha Iyer took a prominent part to do his best to reconcile the two. Things could have gone beyond control had not Mr. Vaidyanatha Iyer stepped into the field and quietened the atmosphere. It was told that Mr. Vaidyanatha Iyer fell flat on the road and said :

“Hindus or Muslims shall not fight unless it be over my dead body. Believe me when I say right from that moment, peace and amity prevailed in Madura between Hindus and Muslims. He is no more to-day. But really it is good to have played such a noble part in life. In conclusion I might say that his was a noble life, well spent and many of us who are young could very well take an example from it. May his soul rest in peace.”

* SRI A. SUBRAMANYAM :—“உப தலைவர் அவர்களே, நான் இன்று காலைதான் பத்திரிகையின் வாயிலாக ஸ்ரீ வைத்தியநாதய்யரின் மரணச் செய்தியை அறிந்து ஆழ்ந்த துக்கத்திற்குள்ளானேன். சென்ற முப்பது ஆண்டுகளாக, என் சிறிய பிராயத்திலிருந்தே அவருடன் கூடப் பழக

24th February 1955] [Sri A. Subramanyam]

வேண்டிய சந்தர்ப்பம் கிடைத்ததால் அவருடைய அரிய குணங்களை அறிந்து கொள்ள முடிந்தது. அவர் ஒரு பெரிய சட்ட நிபுணர்; சிறந்த மேதை; காந்தி அடிக்களின் உண்மையான பக்தர். கனம் ராஜாஜி அவர்கள் கூறியது போல் இந்த மாகாணத்தில் காந்தியின் உண்மையான சீடர்கள் யாரேனும் இருப்பார்களேயானால் அவர் ஸ்ரீ வைத்தியநாதய்யர் என்றுதான் சொல்ல வேண்டும்.

“ஒரு விஷயத்தை மட்டும் இங்கே குறிப்பிட விரும்புகிறேன். 1942-ம் ஆண்டில் பாகிஸ்தான் பிரிவினைப் பிரச்சனை, இராஜாஜியின் பாகிஸ்தான் பிரச்சனை எழுந்த பொழுது; கனம் ஸ்ரீ ஆஸப் அலி அவர்களைக்கொண்டு விசாரிக்க காங்கிரஸ் மகா சபை ஏற்பாடு செய்தது. ஸ்ரீ ஆஸப் அலி இங்கே விஜயம் செய்த பொழுது அவர் முன்னிலையில் இராஜாஜியின் செயலைக் குறித்து ஸ்ரீ வைத்தியநாதய்யர் மிகவும் சிறந்த முறையிலே வாதித்தார். அவர் வாதித்ததைக் கேட்ட ஸ்ரீ ஆஸப் அலி ‘உங்களைப் போன்ற மேதை, சிறந்த வழக்கறிஞர் இந்த மாதிரி வாதிடப்பதை நான் இது வரை கண்டதில்லை. உங்களைப் போன்ற சிறந்த மேதை மத்திய அரசாங்கத்தில் மந்திரியாக இருந்து, எங்களுக்கெல்லாம் வழி காட்டியாகயிருக்க முடியும்’ என்று அன்று கூறியது இன்று கூறுவது போலிருக்கிறது. அதுமட்டுமல்ல, ஸ்ரீ பிரகாசம் மந்திரி சபையில் கூட ஸ்ரீ வைத்தியநாதய்யர் ஒரு மந்திரியாக இருக்க வேண்டுமென்று வேண்டிக்கொள்ளப்பட்டது. அந்த வேண்டுகோளை அவர் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளவில்லை.

“பொது ஜன சேவை செய்வதற்கு என்றும் ஊழியனாக இருக்கவே விரும்புகிறேன். பொது மக்களுக்குச் சேவை செய்வதுதான் என் கடமை” என்று சொன்னார். அத்தகைய மேதையை நாம் இன்று இழந்துள்ளோம். தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட மக்களுக்கு அவருடைய மறைவு மிகப் பெரிய நஷ்டமாகும். பிற்பட்ட வகுப்பினர், ஹரிஜனங்கள், பெண்கள், இந்த மூன்று சமூகத்தவர்களும் என்று சரிநிகரான சமத்துவம் பெற்று மேன்மை யடைகிறார்களோ, அன்றுதான் பூரண சுயராஜ்யம் அடைந்ததாகக் கருத முடியும் என்று அடிக்கடி கூறியிருக்கிறார். இந்த மேதையை இழந்தது நமக்கெல்லாம் மிகுந்த வருத்தத்தைக் கொடுக்கிறது. இந்த சட்ட சபையின் ஆழ்ந்த அனுதாபத்தைத் தெரிவிக்கும் இந்த சந்தர்ப்பத்தில், அன்னரின் குடும்பத்தினருக்கு நானும் எனது அனுதாபத்தையும், வருத்தத்தையும் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்வதுடன் அன்னரின் ஆத்மா சாந்தியடையப் பிரார்த்திக்கின்றேன்.”

SRI A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR :—“கனம் உபதலைவர் அவர்களே, ஸ்ரீ வைத்திய நாதய்யரை நான் முதல் முதலாக மதுரையில் முறை காவலராயிருக்கும்பொழுது கண்டேன். அவர் ஒரு சிறந்த வழக்கறிஞராகத் தோற்றமளித்தார். பேசுவதில் அதிக சாமர்த்திய முன்ளவர். எந்த விஷயத்தையும் நயம்பட உரைப்பார். பல பெரிய வழக்குகளை வாதித்திருக்கிறார். மேலும், இங்கே பேசப்பட்ட விஷயங்களிலிருந்து, நாட்டிற்குப் பல துறைகளிலும் அவர் சேவை செய்தது நன்கு புலனாகின்றது. எங்கே ஏழைகள் இருக்கிறார்களோ, எங்கே தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட மக்கள் இருக்கிறார்களோ, அங்கே அவர் மனம் செல்லும். ‘அன்பிற்கு உண்டு அடைக்கும் தாழ், ஆர்வலர் புன் கணர் பூசல் தரும்’ என்று திருவள்ளுவர் கூறியிருக்கிறார். மதி நலனும் குண நலனும் ஒருங்கே படைத்தவர். சில பேருக்கு மதி நலன் அதிகமாயிருக்கும், ஆனால் குண நலன் இருக்காது. மதி நலன், குண நலன் இரண்டும் சேர்ந்திருப்பது சாலச்சிறந்தது. நமது நாட்டில் தோன்றிய பல குறைகளுக்கும், குற்றங்களுக்கும், வைத்திய நாதய்யர் என்ற பெயருக்கொப்ப. நோய்களுக்கு வைத்தியம் செய்வதுபோல, ‘வைத்தியம்’ செய்திருக்கிறார். அவர் செய்த சேவை பாராட்டுதற்குரியது. ஆங்கில ஆட்சியில் ஒரு Official ஆக யிருந்த காலத்திலே, அவருடன் நெருங்கிப் பழகும் பாக்சியம் எனக்குக் கிட்டவில்லை. தமிழ் நாட்டில் பல விதத்திலும் அவர் மக்களுக்குத் தொண்டு செய்ததை நாம் மறக்க முடியாது. நேற்று நம்முடன் இருந்தவர், இன்று மறைந்து

[Sri A. Gajapathy Nayagar] [24th February 1955]

விட்டார். நெருளல் உளன் ஒருவன் என்று இல்லை என்னும் பெருமை உடைத்து இவ்வுலகம் சொல்லும். அன்னரின் மனைவி, மக்களுக்கு நமது அனுதாபத்தைத் தெரிவித்துக்கொண்டு, நாட்டிற்கு இன்னும் சேவை செய்ய அவர் காட்டிய வழியைப் பின்பற்றல் வேண்டும்.”

* SRI K. BHASHYAM :—“ Sir, when I read about the death of Mr. Vaidyanatha Iyer it was a great shock to me because I have not been made aware of the fact that he was laid up at all. In fact when he was present at Vedaranyam, six days before, I thought he had recovered from his illness and that he had become all right. Therefore, Sir, it was a great shock to me when I read about his death in this morning newspaper. Ever since I was associated with him for the last 30 years, I have not found a man better than what Mr. Vaidyanatha Iyer was. His chief quality was his loyalty to principles, loyalty to his friends and loyalty to his conviction. I think if only we analyse his character, his deep simplicity and his loyalty to his conviction would stand predominant. It is not for me to cover the whole ground again, since many of my friends have already traversed the field, but only to touch upon some of the great qualities which he had. In the profession which he took upon himself, namely that of a lawyer, he acted throughout according to his convictions. Unless he had the confidence that he would win the case, he would straightway tell the client that he would not take up the case. Such a loyalty to one's conscience is not to be easily found among all men. Mr. Vaidyanatha Iyer was a noble example in that regard. When we were in jail, some of us who were older than he, used to take lessons from him. It is my experience that only inside a jail one can exactly know what a man is like. It is there that we found that big leaders were after all men of clayey feet. It is the unusual conditions in jail life that bring out all the qualities of men which are really latent in them and which are not known to people outside. In jail we can see the imperturbability, hospitality and generosity of the people. Therefore it was a great privilege for me to be with him in jail on both the occasions. It is given to very few people to practise according to their conviction what they say. He practised untroubability wholly. I knew many cases where persons of the lowest class were living with him. His generosity is well known. In 1932 I was taking some part in the non-co-operation movement in Madras City. I took part in picketing and other things. He was then a great help to me. He was a person able to help me from Madura itself by sending many volunteers for the purpose of the work in Madras. But for the help rendered by him, it would not have been possible to complete the work which was taken up in 1932, and which brought to Madras some reputation in the matter of work in the cause of the freedom of this country. Such a big leader we have lost. He has left behind a great example of integrity, character and loyalty. I think, Sir, if we only remember these things and follow his example, we will be paying him the greatest homage.”

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :—“ While associating myself with the handsome tributes paid to the departed soul, I wish to say one

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thing, because that is rather peculiar. Some time after my coming away from jail in 1942—or it may be 1943 or 1944—I had to go to Madurai. There one of my friends took me to Sri Vaidyanatha Iyer's house and introduced me to him saying 'He is Mr. Allapichai.' With very great affection and kindness he received me. I remember that even to-day. That was the only occasion I saw him, and after that I had no chance to see him. But the one occasion that I saw I can never forget. He impressed me as the kindest man, a very good man, a very straightforward man and an honest man. We have lost a great man. We are very sorry to have lost him. But we could not help, because it is God's grace.

"As a mark of respect to the memory of Sri A. Vaidyanatha Iyer and by way of passing the resolution, I would request hon. Members to stand in silence for a minute."

The resolution was passed *nem con* all the Members of Council standing.

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Working of the Co-operative Building Construction Societies, Cuddalore and Chidambaram taluks.

* 189 Q.—SRI M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) the amount of loan given to the Co-operative Building Construction Societies, Cuddalore and Chidambaram taluks, from the year 1947 up to date;

(b) the number of houses constructed by them out of that loan;

(c) the conditions for membership in this scheme; and

(d) how many persons owning two or more houses have been admitted as members in this scheme?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“(a) Rs. 6,11,720.

“(b) Ninety-two houses have been constructed so far and 8 are under construction.

“(c) Any person over 18 years of age who is competent to contract shall be eligible for admission as a member, provided he is not a member of any other building society working in the same area. Minors also may be admitted through their legal guardians, for the purpose of joining in the execution of bonds, or as legal representatives of deceased members.

“(b) None.”

SRI M. ETHIRAJULU :—“May I know Sir, whether the Government will consider the question of prohibiting persons owning more than two houses from becoming members of the society?”